

Making Sense of the World - Stephan Willshaw

Okay,

well everybody's got a Bible one in one shape or form right now every Bible We'll go back 50 years before computers came out every Bible is made up for the most part of Black ink and white space

You need both You need both. You can't read the word without the background.

The word of God does not exist in a void.

It has to exist somewhere, and that somewhere is where. It is in you, in your life.

Your life is God's parchment

Now you take the promises of God the principles of the word And what do you do you put them into your life?

People are going to see that when that takes place Because it's written that you and I are to become or are really a written letter your life is not just yours your life is sacred parchment that exists to do what to proclaim the word of God to his glory that's

what it is

Now, quite often when we come together on God's holy Sabbath, and this is a blessing to have that, by the way, many don't. There's two men right here, don't have it. It's a blessing to come together on God's Sabbath.

And each time I get in the car, my long drive down here just out the street, by the way, in case you guys didn't understand that, I wonder, what is going to take place today? I got a phone call this week from this gentleman right here in Oshawa, saying, "Would you mind if I get up there and spoke?" I was thrilled.

I was about four feet off the ground. Did you sense that over the telephone? I was pretty excited because it doesn't normally happen. So I'm hoping that this can inspire the rest of our men to maybe do the same thing.

So we come to services and we wonder what is going to take place today. I wonder how many people actually think about that. I think a lot of people a lot of people do that. Now we've heard this about the Bible that it is a holy manuscript.

Have you ever heard that before? Manu. Think about it manually. Manu. Manu script. It's written by hand. That's the way it was in the very beginning. It wasn't like that. You didn't push your button. It all happened. It was written by hand very carefully, very laboriously.

So your life and my life, if I've already mentioned it to you, exists to be living within this very word in order to bring glory to the two at the Godhead not to the angels to the two of the Godhead now

that short excerpt that I read maybe should get his thinking well where do I fit into this script. Where do I fit into this book?

Now this isn't in my nose, I just thought of it. But our names aren't in here.

But where are they?

Where? They're written in the book of life. Let's not forget that ever.

Let's not forget it.

So, God the Father, what is He revealing to you what is he revealing to me what is he revealing to us because we're all here today together and we're meeting how as one in unity and when we do that something special happens that's no secret and we do that here in Cortha to a very large degree sounds like I'm bragging well God loves it when he sees that, so what I want to hopefully accomplish here today in this message for each and every one of us to be able to see the time frame and where we possibly see ourselves in this very book as we do something and what are we doing I've spoke about it before we are heading towards a narrow gate not the broad gate that leads to something else I'm not going to talk about that part. We're leading to the narrow gate and it's not as a few of you know. And I've experienced trials, I feel the snow, it's no easy deal. If you think it's an easy deal, that's a blessing.

It's not an easy deal. None None of us are going to get younger. We're going to get older and it's going to be more difficult as we go. That is the way it works out just because of the human frame. So what I've chosen for a title on today's message, can everybody hear me okay? Okay.

Using the word, here it is, using this parchment to make some sense of What's going on out there in the world? Simply using the word to make sense of the world. You want to write that down? Now I'm going to take you to a scripture right now that we've been to so many times, but I want to make this To ground us to not get us off of La La Land somewhere somewhere where we shouldn't be Let's go to 2nd Timothy 3 16 and 17 a memory scripture probably for a lot of us We've been there many times, brethren. We have this in front of us every day, this fantastic book of life, 2 Timothy 3, 16 and 17. We've all come to understand there is no other book like this book that we all have in front of us. The book unquestionably stands alone, all by itself. There's nothing else like it.

Not only does it exist in paper form, but we have it also in what we refer to Electronic form making it accessible That way as well. It's pretty amazing how this has all come down the last 50 or 60 years or so pretty amazing As we try to make sense of the world around us We realize the calling we've been given into this truth

There's nothing short of a miracle and you know something? I can't work out your salvation. You can't work out mine and God doesn't work it up for you either, right? We all stand in this or around this or on top of this or within this, let me say that, we all stand within this on an individual basis And we try to do the best we can, and we use the Word of God as best we can to achieve that. So, 1 Timothy 3, 16, and 17, you've been here many times, and it tells us that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God.

And it's profitable for these things, for doctrine, For reproof for correction and for instruction in unrighteousness. I Love that when you correct me just checking for instruction in righteousness. Thank you Don Why? Well that every man I'm gonna add a woman to that that every man every person let's say of God may be complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work. And coming here on the Sabbath and coming

to a congregation you go to on the Sabbath if you have one locally where you live is a what? A bad work? Hardly.

It's a blessing. Thank you, Rich.

So this verse, and I know a few are going to relate to this, this verse is also translated in the very beginning as a scripture that is

God breathed. God breathed, that's not my breath. I'm just pantomining God's breath.

He breathed this stuff. This is not the mind of man. This is the mind of the

Godhead. So a Holy Spirit inspired to be written down. Why? For the man and woman to learn and live by and be equipped For every good work.

Now, this is quite a benefit Isn't it?

Who would care to read and to learn and

Obey from its teaching while I tell you this Not many.

Oh What it says many are called, right?

And you know the rest of it Let's go to Psalms this time right to the center of

the Bible We talked about that last week Psalms one start right off there Turn

there basically right in the middle of the Bible brethren the application of this

book brings with it a new way of living someone God's word should inspire us You

take us to a position, and when it tells us to apply something into our personal

lives, we need to do that. Why? Because God's breathing all over us.

Let's consider what God the Father and the Messiah here are telling us.

Remember two personages in the Godhead, they say they're one.

Do we believe it? I'll say. Psalm 1 verse 6 and I quote,

catch this, "Blessed" or "Blessed" if you want it that way. "Blessed" is a man or

a woman I'm adding there. "Blessed" is a person who does not walk in the counsel

of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the

scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord. That's all caps there It's a

way. I haven't written in mice in my word here and in his law does he meditate or

think upon day and night he's like a Tree he should be like a tree planted by the

streams of water There's no drug taking place there, well -washed,

that brings forth its fruit in its season, its leaf is not going to wither, and

all that he does is going to only do one thing, prosper.

We're reading in the first Psalm here.

The wicked are not so. The wicked aren't thinking like this. The wicked aren't

behaving like this. That's a totally different deal. It's called the blackness of

life

Wicked are not so verse 4 but they are like the chaff which the wind drives away

Maybe it says blows blows away in your Bible in your translation first five

Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment nor nor sinners in the

congregation of the righteous Do you hear that?

everybody here is called righteous doing the right that's the root word right doing

right doing the right thing for six first success for the Lord knows the way of

the righteous but the way of the ungodly I've gotten brackets there the wicked are

going to perish down thank you for that message earlier That plugs in to this day

How many times have we read this particular scriptural passage

It's an important one Look at where we find ourselves today, brother living in the world where everything familiar around us seems to be falling apart

If you've got an old car 30 years old I guarantee you you've done no work to it.

That thing is falling apart Do you feel like an old car? I don't you're not falling apart, but the world around us is falling apart Don't you think I?

Get the feeling I

was looking at the

How would I put it? The iron quill. Anybody ever heard of the iron quill?

I feel like they have. Well, it's a fellow on sub -stack, he writes. Current events and biblical topics intertwine. Pretty amazing.

I was reading this week, well, I put this together, a statement.

He said that. Look around at all these things that we took for granted as we were growing up, things that were normal, and it feels like it's all just falling apart.

That's where I got the idea from, from the Iron Coal Rider. Then he makes a statement right there in Psalm chapter 2, rather verse 1.

He says, "Why?" You can see it there. Why does a nation's rage and the people plot in vain? Then the iron quill personally quotes, "World economies falter.

Man's morality is crumbling under their weight of compromise.

For many, it feels like the end is closing in.

But For those with eyes to see and ears to hear, the end that's coming is not the finale." He says, "It's more like the beginning of the unveiling." End of quote from the Iron Quill. I read that. I thought, "Wow, what a simple but incredibly powerful

statement." Keep a marker here in Psalm 1. And let's consider what it says in Revelation 1, right at the back, keep your marker there in Psalm 1. I'm going to

mark it myself. But let's go back to Revelation, the first chapter, everybody likes going to Revelation.

Revelation the first chapter, right from the middle to And in Revelation we see

something very similar, language -wise, being used, and we'll see it.

We'll read right from verse 1 just to the end of verse 3.

Notice again the use of the word "blast." Remember that first word,

"blast" in Psalm 1, and I quote verse 1,

"The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave to him to show his servants the things that are ordained to come to pass shortly. And he made it known having sent it by his angels to a servant John who gave witness to the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ and all these things he saw. Here it is, blessed.

This is the one who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy and who keep the things that are written therein for the time is at hand.

Remember what we started today. We are to be living within this word.

We are likened to be sacred parchment, the sacred parchment in order to bring glory to this room. No, to the Godhead. We are representations of them here on earth.

Why are you wearing the flesh? It's amazing. What an amazing calling we've been given. Now listen,

the iron quill said this. I got to quote I give him the, the hearsay on it

because it makes sense, he says, or he said, the book of revelation is not a

horror story, it's a, it's another age, it's a hope story,
meant to awaken, meant to, meant to motivate who, us,
the church, it's not just us here, But the church gathered all around the world.
Not many people are listening, but you guys, and you girls, and we are listening,
that is special. Special to us, special to the Godhead.

It catches our attention. When this book of revelations opens with a blessing,
and the book of Psalms begins with a similar wording. Revelation 1,
"Blessed is he who reads and hears and keeps the things written in this prophecy."
And back in Psalms, the first chapter, it starts off, you flip back there. Psalm 1
verse 1, "Blessed! Do you feel blessed? Do I feel blessed?
Do we as a group, how will we have four? We're about 10 or 11 today. do we feel
blessed?

I sure do. Blessed is the man who does not walk in the council of the wicked,
nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful.
Those people who scoff, those people who mock, those people who make snide remarks
against you, and when they do that, they make snide remarks against the two with
the Godhead.

Your sermonette plugged in. This is what the demons did and do.
Very well done, sir.

That blessing it's not going to allow us to escape to escape rather hard times no
it's about understanding the times it's about standing firm in those difficult times
I like the good times too and so do you but that's easy to stand in right oh I
just bought a new car. Really easy to fit in a new car, but how about your car
that's 30 years old? You look back and half of it's behind you. That's not so easy
to stand in. So stand firm in all times. In the pages of Revelation we know that
the Messiah that we see speaking there is not just a distant memory or a crucified
victim, he is the risen, reigning, returning to the earth king of kings and lord of
lords. That's what that is. That's who he is. It is special. And this dog said he
has eternal life. That's amazing.

This letter in Revelation has been to give us hope in the midst of all these
worldly pressures. There is pressure.

Now, the writing from the Eternal is to prepare us as what?

Servants. We are to be servants. We come here each and every Sabbath to serve each
other. That is a blessing. I see that going on Every week everybody serves. It's
amazing. Just amazing Now after all Was it that?

the original attention of it all to serve to assist him You are Sharon his father's
government here on the planet. Yes. That was the original attention. It didn't happen
Old scratch got in the way, didn't he? Stuck his foot out. Here, take this.

You're not gonna die. You're gonna be as smart as the eternal. No. Lie.

It happens. It still happens. Lots of lies going on. And we understand from Daniel's
vision, right unto the very revelation of Christ, Each step of the way,
what's it for?

For preparation. We're being prepared for something so great, something so awesome, we
can't even relate to it. All I can relate to is a new car. Or a 30 -year -old car

that's halfway behind me.

Our own human -sightedness gets in the way of us,
doesn't it?

We need to replace that human sightedness with what?

Christ sightedness. Showing us that history is not a random thing when you really look at it from the big perspective. It is ruled. Why? And how? It's ruled by a fantastic plan. We know the plan. The guy working on that building today hasn't got a clue. He's not clued in like you. Not clued in like we are.

They'll get it. They'll get it someday. They may have received the calling.

We don't know it's just many called. It's not my notes. Many called few chose. They just may have not responded properly. That's all. But you did. We did.

That's what brings us here.

We talked about suffering a little bit earlier.

Suffering is not wasted. Suffering is woven into your personality.

Everybody here has trials. Everybody here has had, I've had trials. Everybody's had trials. John's got a trial going on now that's unbearable. He's going through it.

I talked about it earlier. I hope you don't mind me mentioning that, John.

Suffering is not wasted. It's woven. Evil may rage, but you know something?

The iron quill said this. I'll quote it. Evil may rage, but it's always kept on a leash

that I ever liked that simplicity when I read it. That's why I'm using it today.

The finality is coming. The apocalypse, brothers and sisters, is still ahead of us.

Yes, it warns of judgment. It also calls for something else,

endurance. It also calls for something else, worship. And it also calls for something else, we you around. It's called hope.

It's what it is. It's not my idea. I was listening to Adrian Davis this week.

He said I didn't write the Bible. I'm just trying to put it out there. I thought that was a good way of putting it.

So let's be absolutely clear. It's all about the Word of God and where you and I fit in after all. We're not called to be spectators.

We're called to be active participants of this story.

We're from Genesis. We clean on it through to Revelation. It's all going to take place.

So because it becomes very important to be responsive to God's word as best we can.

I'll say that. Operating his lights in darkness.

That's what it is. Like a iron quote says this. I use this quote too.

Like a signal fire. Liking the way through the storm.

Oh That was well put.

Let's be reminded of something. Let's look at Revelation 12. We're in that book I think right now. Revelation 12, let's turn there. Jesus warned us also in Matthew 24 we're going to do Revelation 12. Paul echoed it as well in 2 Timothy 3. John expanded on it in this very book that we're looking at right now. And these are not interruptions in God's plan. It's all within the plan, right? They are His plan, allowing evil to fully expose itself before He brings it

to justice. The Church is called to overcome at this particular time. Let's see how the Church does that. Revelation 12 and verse 11, this is an in -step chapter, and I quote, "And they overcame the devil, overcame him, and the brethren overcame the devil, through the blood of the Lamb, and through the word of their testimony, and they love not their lives unto death." I remember says in another place that if you want to be my disciple you have to forsake everything. Even your own self.

I didn't write that. It's in the scriptures. It's the Luke.

Maybe one day I want to look that up and tell me where it is. I don't have it written down. I just thought of it. Luke 14 or 17 or somewhere.

Victory, brethren, is not in the absence of any sort of hardship.

Oh, I don't want hardship. Victory's not in the absence of hardship. It is faithfulness in the midst of all that. We come through the smoke, come out to the side, we're still at least hopefully in one piece, tattered and worn, but in one piece. The saints in Revelation, what color are the robes roads that they wear. White.

But they're washed in the blood, aren't they?

Now is not the time for a passivity or retreat.

No, it's not the time for that. This is the hour to stand tall. Why?

Because the battle, brothers and sisters, belongeth to the Lord. And you know what?

When you get right down to it, he has never lost one yet. Not one.

In the earlier chapters of Revelation, we read of the seven letters to the seven churches. We know that is there, Revelation 2 and 3. And this church at Philadelphia stands out among them. not defined by size, or power,

or because it's some sort of popularity contest, no, it's not what it is.

They are defined by faithfulness, and not having denied the name.

And who are they? Well, those are the ones, brothers and sisters, that endured to the very end.

Set apart from the culture. It was all around them this assimilation culture.

They were set apart from that Egypt was doing the same thing to the Israelites But God took them out

We must strive to be like This characteristic that we see there in the Philadelphia Church, there in chapter 3 of Revelation.

The remnant, we've heard that reference to us, the rem, you are the remnant.

The remnant is not to hide, but to turn on, to shine,

right? Remember that day I brought my flashlight and I shined the door down, yes?

Kind of what it Okay a little light in the living room. Not to be cheap but to reveal.

For the darkest of times they are to trim their lamps and to shine those lights and have the spirit to be able to do that. Let's go to Isaiah 55. Isaiah 55.

Isaiah Let's take a look at that, that in the time of the prophet Isaiah which spans basically a 40 year time frame There were four different kings reigning there in Judah. These kings were Uzziah Jotham Ahaz Last but not least a good guy

Hezekiah That's all listed as Isaiah 1. We're going to Isaiah 55 Now The Isaiah time period was very dark in the history of the people of Judah and the people in the surrounding nations If you look at Isaiah, it's like a It's like a mini Bible starts off and it ends up like revelation Successful, but anyway the first 39 chapters of the book are filled with judgment upon the immoral idolatry That was I don't I don't adult yeah, I don't adultery. It's not adultery, but idolatry. It was taking place in that location. But the final 27 chapters declare a message of hope, just like revelation. That brings correction to the people of Isaiah's day. God, brethren, does not let sin go unpunished forever.

He nits it sometimes. He nits it. Isaiah 55, cutting in here a little bit. 6 and 7, let's read it. It says in verse 6, "Seek the Lord, while he may be found, call upon him, while he's near. Let the wicked forsake his way, calling to repentance, let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man, his thoughts, let him return to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Do we remember that? Well, we remember stuff in the past. Oh, I wonder if God forgave me of that. I get this all the time. It's all scratch, sticking his foot out in front of me. If I've taken the Passover and I've repented of all my sins, I'm good to go.

But it doesn't last forever. It has to be renewed year by year. Part of the covenant, right?

Now, a powerful admonition in Isaiah's day is of course the same admonition for us today. It's in the book. God's word and his ways of life are increasingly despised, increasingly demonized, they're being cancelled, and this world around us, the darkness of this world, this is what is taking place. They don't want to hear about this any longer. It's disappearing. It's amazing. We've heard the term. I don't know if you're an internet person. I'm not really too much an internet person, but I heard this lately is called shadow banning. Anybody heard shadow banning? Well, this is what it is. It's referring to an internet search engine and it manipulates search results that secretly ban conservative and biblical perspectives. While at the same time they're doing that, they're elevating ungodly ideologies. Can you imagine that? Shadowbanning is called.

This is why we are to be so careful to be proving all things and holding fast to that which is only good. We have to always be doing that. Is this true what I'm hearing? Is this right what they're saying? Listen carefully. Satan is very deceptive and it's subtle. It comes out on every angle sometimes. Shadow that.

The Word of God is just appearing from the media which brings to mind something from the book of Amos. Let's go to Amos 8 this time. Amos 8,

let's turn there. Right after the major prophets, you get Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, then Amos comes into the picture.

Amos 8, one of the minor prophets was something very very major to say.

Now, pick it up in verse 11. "Amen, say, 'Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord God, that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor of thirst for water, but of the hearing of the words of the Lord. They shall

wander from sea to sea, from north to east, and shall run to and fro, seeking the Word of the Lord but shall not find it. We've read that before.

I talked with that a couple years ago. I brought a message on that. Our world has been rushing towards this big time.

God is now being, pardon me, good is now being called evil and evil is now being called good. You've all heard about and experienced this very often lately.

This is something Isaiah wrote about in Isaiah 5 verse 20. I'll quote it,

"Who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter." Well, you know that scripture. It's in Isaiah 5 20. "What should, what must, you and I do." what must we do?

It's only one thing. I'm going to quote it again. I've quoted it already. It's

worth quoting a couple times. And it says Isaiah 55, 6, and 7, "What shall we do?

Seek the Lord while he may be found. Cump upon him while he is still near.

Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts. Let him return to the Lord." And when you do that, it carries on by saying he will have mercy on him and he is going to abundantly pardon.

Do quote once again, it's worth a quote, more than once, fantastic scripture. Now we have to keep our eyes and our focus on this narrow gate that's just ahead.

So it's very important that we are able to make sense of what is going on in the world around us. This walk we're involved in is not anything that we could label.

Oh, this is an easy walk. I mentioned that already. No, we don't label it like that. It's nothing easy about this.

And you know, it all seems to be easy and

taking a long time. It's not easy. And it does seem to be taking a long time, doesn't it?

When that happens,

how do we react to it? When something seems to be taking a long time. I know your brains are generating this here, but the wheels are turning. We get tired we get

tired of I just this is difficult when's Christ going to return when does my change going to come so when the course gets rough we let down we

that down. It's part of our human nature, I suppose. Remember Christ's words in Matthew the 25th chapter when the bridegroom was gone a long time?

They all became drowsy and slept,

picturing the whole church here. Further, this is not easy to do.

Of course, in our mortal weakness, we can only go so long without falling asleep.

We have to sleep. We're physical, right? Physically, we need sleep. The real problem here is a matter of preparation, of remaining alert when we're awake,

by science again using something that's so special, God's Holy Spirit.

Now the announcement of Christ's return comes in the thick of great spiritual

darkness at the end time and with the world in the grip of spiritual deception and

you know what comes with that? We've heard this If you've been in the church a while, you've heard this a long time. It comes with a Laodicean attitude. Who've

heard of that before? Everybody. It comes with a Laodicean attitude. Yet,

those with God's spirit have the help needed to see the deception and resist all

this worldly stuff that is coming at them.

Sammy's going to put up a few slides here.

Now it's

easy to get comfortable in this Laodicean environment to the point of being complacent and accepting the sin that's going on around us.

We can get complacent.

Oh, it's a happy frog photo. We don't want to develop this sort of attitude, right?

And I love it. Look at that Like in the surroundings being deceived and thinking everything is just wonderful

Oh

Don't get caught up by being called back into sin by those in the world around you. Recognize the unrighteousness.

This is not where any one of us want to be. By the way, not of us are in there, but we don't want to be in there because there are many in there, right?

Be aware, be aware of

What is taking place?

Don't be called back at the stand by those in the world around you. That's for sure Be aware what I'm taking place around you and get out of dodge. The old saying goes get out of dodge

Before you end up

on the under righteous plague for dinner

Get out and dodge.

You don't want to be in the plate of our righteousness You want to be your righteous doing the right things on a righteous doing wrong things?

So we have to be awake If you're ready constantly remember we've been called out on this modern Babylon Even though we still with it live within it on a daily physical basis. I've got it all around me. You've got it all around you. It's everywhere, right?

We the church had to be awakened alert anticipating the coming of Christ. Why?

There's a marriage coming, the marriage of the Lamb. We see that written in Revelation 17 or Revelation 19 and verse 7. I'll quote it for you. Let us be glad and shout for joy. We're going to shout for joy and let us give glory to him For the marriage of the land has come and his wife Has made herself ready Brethren as I already said we have this fantastic

Situation up on the sea glass if we have that correct whether it be up in heaven Whether it be in the clouds will have to be there to find out. We want to attend this as the bride or the guests.

I'll take either one. I'd rather be the bride, but maybe I'm not good enough for that, but maybe a guest. I certainly don't want to have played a thousand years and come up and be judged and tossed into the hot bath. Fanny can put up there a real real hot. I had a bath this week and the water was too hot.

I stuck my foot in it.

I had it full hot. Can you imagine the lake of fire?

I can't imagine. I want no part of it. I want to be in God's family.

You want to be in God's family. We want to be in God's family. Yes. So we have to keep going forward. Yes, we must keep an eye on what's taking on the world. Even more is the fact that we have to remain separated out of this world and be in union to the sound of the seventh trumpet. We want to be in union with God. When the call of Christ comes, we want to wake up and be ready to trim our lats and to put them in order.

Brethren, as we know, Salvation is a personal matter that we cannot borrow a relationship with God. We see it written by Paul. We can't borrow a relationship.

I can't go over to Everett and say, "Oh, Everett, can you work out my Salvation for me?" No, it's not going to happen like that. You can't borrow a relationship remember Philippians 12 and verse 2 work out your own salvation with fear and trembling it says there by hearing the word and obeying it we must all every one of us be all in not 50 % not 70 not 80 not 90 100 % all in that's what it is

None of us could enter the kingdom on somebody else's coattails as good as they may be. We can't. It won't happen that way. The power of the Spirit of God must be at work in every disciple individually. To keep our spiritual oil full, we must be regularly renewed with God's help through the means of the way he directs us, especially using prayer, communication of God, constant deep study, and I said deep study of the Word of God with some occasional fasting going there from time to time and meditation as well. What did I just read? I'll read a whole chapter sometimes. What did I just read? I go back and read it again. my brain was elsewhere. It happens.

We do that combined with what we're doing today, Sabbath fellowship and ongoing repentance, the spirit to heart generated obedience, spirit from God to our heart generated obedience. Those of us looking and anticipating Christ arrival, need to stay awake and be ready and not be lulled to sleep by the cares of what's going on around us. What's going on over at our neighbor's place, dropping down the street.

No, this is very very important. So we also know something else.

The coming of the Messiah is going to stun the world. And we also know that there's going to be some who will not be ready because the cares of this end time system is going to hold them captive to the broad game.

Most. Many call few chosen. Most are going to go through that broad game. Which leads to where? I won't tell you where. You know where. Matthew 25. Let's turn there. This is so important. I've been there before. We've been there before many times in personal studies and Bible studies or whatever. But Matthew 25, so important. We've been here. And let's seriously take heed to the warning and not put any of this off.

Whatever the situation may be, this parable shows That some will awake and find they're not really if this with the parable shows some awake and they aren't prepared To go with Christ to the wedding. They just aren't prepared

Let's consider where it's written here for us to learn so brethren This will not be a reality in any one of our lives. We don't want this to happen It doesn't have

to happen right it's written for

Verse 10, Matthew 25, "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding, and the door was left open." No, the door was shut.

And of quote, "Fragically, the foolish virgins return

What do they, what do they do? They seek entry into the wedding supper. They want in. Can't say I blame them. Verse 11, "Afterwards the other virgins also came saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us." But the adjutant said,

"Truly I say it to you, "I do not know you."

But the adjutant said, "Pardon me," said, pardon me, verse 13,

"Watch therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." Now, you know something? There is a very unpleasant tone, a finality in these particular verses. Is all lost without hope?

Is there still room for repentance? So I'm going to read something really carefully here. I really want you to listen I really want to get this out Without having any mistakes what I'm trying to get across here At some point At some point It will be too late

right Got to come a point in time. That's going to be too late The door is going to be shot, finally. At that point, no one's repentance,

no one's prayer, no one's pleading can change that fact that the door is closed.

Remember Noah in the Ark? How long did it take to build that thing? 120 years I think the word says. 120 years they couldn't figure out what was taking

No, it's remembering the oil in the ark having its door sealed shut When it was shut Did it open up again? No, it stayed shut throughout the flood Throughout the whole deal All the pleading in the world did not open the ark doors to others after it was shut now Once Christ has come,

this is what we want to think about this, once Christ has come, or

that you and I have passed away and died, either one could happen, our opportunity to be among the first fruits of the kingdom will have already been decided.

There's no deciding in the grave. When you're horizontal, when you're in the longhouse, There's no more salvation being worked out. The closing doors, the doors closing, will have been fair because everyone has had ample time to prepare for the bridegrooms coming. He does not come, think about it, he does not come early in the evening. He comes later, right, they all fell asleep, it's later.

He has even delayed. Verse 5 tells you about giving extra time to be ready.

Now, we've all had our whole lives. Let's speak to myself on this,

by the way. I'm here sharing it with you. We've all had our whole lives. What are we? We're the parchment, remember we got to find ourselves in this book we need to be written in the book of life keep that written in the book of life that's what we need to have all the years of Christ long -suffering and patience with us to prepare

therefore it's fair I'll tell you it's more than fair that the door shut when the last hour comes on the scene. I say I recognize man's tendency to what?

I'm really good at this. It's called procrastination. Isaiah 55 verse 6.

The foolish leodicean attitude dictates that one needs nothing else spiritually but such one will you're really awakened to realize his terrible unpreparedness.

He realizes when it's too late, just like the people at the flood, right? 120 years down the tube.

And it came in a time they weren't expecting. Christ returns like that. Now this attitude, what is it?

It's a bankrupt vision. It's what it really is. No foresight. It sees no need to prepare for the eventualities of life whether it be physical or more importantly spiritual.

Catches people out of where. comes as a thief in the night. Opportunity, they come and they go through life. And no opportunity is so greatly lost than that of the foolish virgins.

They fail to recognize that the bridegroom would probably come later than expected, and their lack of faithful perseverance and thought and action in their place.

Now, the lesson Christ emphasizes in this parable is to be prepared for the future, namely, and the only thing it really counts anymore, the coming of Christ, the coming of the Messiah. The prophet Amos expresses it powerfully? Prepare to meet or see your God. Amos 4, verse 12.

The truth of the matter is this. Humans have little trouble preparing for physical things but when it comes to preparing spiritually to meet God Much of the time, laugh is where the problem exists. I got all fingers pointing back at me.

I'm good at preparing physically, but I'm not so good at preparing spiritually. It is the way that I am. It is the way that

probably we all are. We need to come up a few pegs.

I'm talking myself on this first. I'm sharing it with you again. If I seem like I'm becoming really hard on you guys I'm doing hard on myself. I want to be there.

I want to be in the family of God The last verse of this parable Matthew 25 13 makes its purpose ring in our ears verse 13 Matthew 25 watch therefore For you write your name in there. Do not know neither the day or hour in which a son of man is coming."

And of quote,

what another way to understand this parable is you recognize and think about this that the preaching of the gospel even today is effectively part of that shout that the bridegroom is coming. It's all over the internet.

We've got the book. How many of these do you have with different translations? I've got a dozen. It's all over the place. So the warning is being shouted to us every morning. We wake up. If you guys do your studies in the morning, maybe some of you do, it's coming at us all the time. We just have to have the ears and the eyes to see and the wherewithal to get out of the way of the world and be right with God So there is still time To do what is needed to stay Spiritually filled.

Let's go to Revelation 3 this time I'm winding down here

Revelation 3 for those Christians who are neglectful Christ will knock at the door of their hearts to be let in. As we see the message, the lukewarm church at

Laodicea, Revelation 3. Let's have a look at that. Revelation 3, I'm going to read from 14 down to 22.

I can't remember what translation this is. I think it's a faithful version. And to the angel of the church, verse 14, Revelation 3, into the of the lay of the sea and right These things says the amen the faithful and true witness the beginner or the beginning of the creation of God. I know your works Then you're neither hot nor cold. I would that you be either cold or hot So then because you're a lukewarm not hold the cut not hot or cold. do something, I'm going to spew you out of my mouth," it says there in verse 16.

"For you say, 'Oh, I'm rich and I'll become wealthy and have need of nothing,' and you do not understand that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and even negative." Verse 18, "I counsel you to buy from me gold purified by fire so that you may be rich and white garments so that you may be cold and the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed and to anoint your eyes as I saw so you can see verse 19 as many as I love think of that as many as I love I rebuke and chase him therefore be zealous and repent behold I send the door knock and if anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come into him he will stop with him and he with me and to the one who overcomes that's what we always have to be doing to one who overcomes it but give authority to sit with me In my throne even as I also overcame and sat down with my father in his throne The one who has an ear let him hear what the spirit says to the churches end of quote Christ encourages us to take our focus off the world

Let the refining of your character take place like the refining of gold in the firing that we just read about. Godly character obtained as we go through your life's trials. We've all had them. Some of us have them right now. Big ones.

It's a refining. Christ didn't have it easy to

become more Christ -like in our outlook. As we go through these trials, how would Christ think in this trial you're going through? That's how we need to think and we have to put that on, right?

Become more like Christ in our outlook and all these things we go through. None of what Christ went through is easy as I just said. The same things take place with us from time to time. The parable of the wise and foolish virgins of Matthew 25 show us that a time is going to come when there's no further any opportunity.

Time has run out and who knows how long our lives and some of yours are doing very good by the way. Who knows how long our time is going to be. I have no idea.

Absolutely no idea.

The parable also gives us the key to enduring to the end of the age and entering through that narrow gate at Jesus at the Messiah's return. The key is to have the power of God's Holy Spirit helping and guiding us along the way. In the darkness of this end time, those who are not wild and spiritual inside will have light to guide them, and to keep them in power, keep them warm.

You're not going to be out in a snow bank if you exercise what God is giving to us.

So let's be getting rid of everything. I've said this

That would stop us from being in that first fruit chosen group Your life of overcoming is none other than God's parchment
Babylon is going to fall The global system of corruption control and spiritual adultery, this counterfeit kingdom that promises all this power, promises power, but it delivers bondage, it delivers sin, and delivers blasphemy.
However, the real focus is this, the bride, do be prepared. Look around today. We live in a world increasingly ruled by this centralized control.
Immoral legislation, bursting at the seams.
Surveillance in our societies on every street corner-- can't go anywhere, I would not be seen.
A digital idolatry is pure. pure.
I'm not going to comment here already.
These are not random trends. What they are, because they are scaffolding. It's scaffolding, just like that stuff right there. Scaffolding, built by Babylon, but in the finality, It's designed for fire, brothers and sisters. The call for the church is simple. Come out of Babylon. Don't weep over what God is going to destroy.
Rejoice on what He's revealed to us so far, what He's going to reveal down the road. At the end of Revelation, it's going to be amazing. A greater kingdom is on the way. We know that. And this one, This greater kingdom that's coming cannot be shaken. Be aware, be alert, be ready, be there.